

MAY 18 1961

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## Military Influence On Government Needs Look

The Kennedy administration appears to be giving some thought and study to the military influences which have guided early fortunes of the new government.

Concern has been voiced in recent months by both presidents that the military establishment may have begun to exert more than usual pressures in some areas of policy-making. President Kennedy has sought to remedy this situation since he has been in office through executive actions reducing such powers.

To the citizenry, the main cause of concern would seem to be that the executive branch was able, through its military planners and plotters of the Central Intelligence Agency to conceive and carry out the plan of invasion of a neighboring country without the public or Congress being aware that this nation was directly involved.

And now, supposedly free Cubans, survivors of the invasion attempt, are reportedly being held prisoner at a U.S. Marine island base in the Atlantic. This, apparently, is to keep them from further embarrassing the United States by talking. Congress, in the dark on this too, is investigating — it is hoped with the intent of producing a better solution to the problem.

It is, of course, to the credit of the military that no U.S. troops were committed to the operation which would have lent an infinitely more serious complexion to it. But the question arises: Could the executive branch have successfully committed U.S. troops without the consent of Congress?

The original intent of the U.S. constitutional machinery was that the three branches of government, judicial, executive and legislative, would serve as a checkmate to each other and exert a moderating influence in order that one branch would not gain enough power to usurp the rest of the government and establish a di-

This leads to the question of the CIA's super-secret status. Should this agency of the executive branch be permitted to have autonomous operation, in effect be a small government unto itself, and be answerable only to the president? The CIA at present is undergoing a thorough reappraisal which will probably determine whether Congress will implement demands of some of its members that a watchdog committee be set up to keep check on the spy agency.

The CIA has proved to be a new experience for American democracy which not so long ago prided itself in the absence of any spying system and would have been aghast at the idea that the Cuban plan could have been carried out in the manner it was. It is conceivable in the view of some Congressmen that a powerful military clique in conjunction with the CIA could become the usurper.

There might be more potential fire in the radical-leaning New Frontier than its policy-makers are ready to admit or realize.